

## TEACHING FARMERS TO GROW CORN

Uncle Sam Spending Much Time and Money to Get Best Results.

Ask the average farmer if he thinks the "Rag Baby" will be the salvation of the corn crop and the chances are that he will either yell for the police or push you down into a chair while he summons a doctor. This is not surprising. The average farmer's only notion of a "Rag Baby" is little Mary's homemade doll, so he may be excused for thinking that a person who mentions such a thing in connection with the corn crop is in need of restraint or medical attention. Explain to him just what you mean, however, and in the majority of cases his interest will be awakened, then his wonder, and finally his enthusiasm.

The so-called "Rag Baby" is merely a simple little device for testing seed corn—so simple that any boy or girl can learn all about it in ten minutes, and by its use any farmer is guaranteed an increase of ten bushels or more per acre in his corn crop. The method is now being taught in many district schools in the corn belt, and the farmers are learning of its value and simplicity through their children.

The Crop Improvement Committee of the Council of Grain Exchanges is responsible for the introduction of this device. The watchword of the committee is "Test your seed!"

Now, the average farmer will declare that he knows good seed when he sees it. Or if he can't tell by the looks of it he can do so by cracking it with his teeth, or with a jackknife if he hasn't any teeth.

It is the purpose of the Crop Improvement Committee to free just such sceptics from the bonds of tradition and convert them to modern, up-to-date agricultural methods. They say that if their efforts are successful it will be the means of adding millions of dollars to the value of the corn crop of this country. Here are the figures, as prepared by Mr. Bart Ball, secretary of the committee, with offices in the Board of Trade, Chicago.

The average corn county has 100,000 acres of corn land. Ten more bushels from each acre would mean 1,000,000 bushels, which at the very conservative price of fifty cents would add \$500,000 to the annual wealth of each county. If the 114,000,000 and odd acres of land in the United States devoted to the cultivation of corn last year could have been made to yield ten bushels more per acre they would have added approximately \$570,000,000 to the national wealth.

"Think of this enormous sum of money going to waste, all for lack of a little discrimination on the part of the farmers in selecting their seed," said Mr. Ball. "And this waste not only applies to corn, but to all other grains. That is why the Crop Improvement Committee, in co-operation with the agricultural colleges, is endeavoring to collect information of the activities in every direction, in every State and in every vocation. That is why when we learn of a good thing in one section we want to multiply it by a thousand and carry the gospel of good seedling into every county in the United States. It is not a question of planting more acres, but of obtaining a larger yield out of the same acreage, with more brains and less sweat."

"Many plans have been devised by the committee to induce both men and boys to accomplish the desired result by putting them into competition with each other. It is the gaming instinct made practical. Every man is interested if he thinks he can do something better than his fellow. There are several methods to induce each man to see himself as others see him, to learn his true place in the farm equation. One of these methods is to give each man a number according to his ability to raise corn, based upon his own signed statement. The idea is, of course, to prevent those below the average from placing all the blame upon Providence."

Mr. Ball is enthusiastic over the agricultural kindergarten idea. He believes that if the boys and girls can be interested in seed testing it will be possible to interest many farmers—the fathers, relatives or neighbors of the children—whom the committee could not reach directly. At the same time they will be educating future generations of corn growers.

The latest and most successful way for testing different grades of seed corn in order to know which grade will work best under local climatic conditions or that possesses the required strength to make good seed, is by means of the "Rag Baby" method.

The "Rag Baby" is made in this manner: Cut as many pieces of old cloth, about a foot square, as there are ears of corn of different crops under examination. Place on one square of cloth several kernels from a certain ear; lay another square on top of this with kernels from another ear, and add as many squares as you have different grades of corn for.

When the pile is complete, make a roll of it, being careful not to roll too tightly. Tie some soft tape or strings of the same cloth around the roll, about one inch from the end.

From twenty to thirty ears can be tested in each roll.

After the roll is tied up it is placed in a bucket of water and there allowed to remain from two to eighteen hours, as the operator may prefer. The water is then poured off, the roll placed on a couple of small pieces of wood, to lift it from the floor, and a damp gunny sack placed over it to keep it from drying out. The bucket is then turned upside down over the roll, one edge of the roll being raised a half inch or so to give ventilation.

It is important that the corn should be thoroughly moist, but not so wet that the seed will smother. Care should also be taken that the corn is not chilled. The best results will be obtained

if it is kept in a temperature of about 70 degrees. At the end of four or five days the kernels will be ready to sprout. It is then the easy matter to tell which ears are good for seed and which are not. The kernels in each square are carefully examined, and where they do not give good evidence of good germinating power the ear of corn corresponding to that square should be discarded.

In scoring, the kernels fall into four classes, as shown in the illustration. No. 1 is dead. No. 2 is weak, having rootlets only. No. 3 is weak, having sprouts only. No. 4 is strong, having both rootlets and sprouts.

Let us suppose that this process has been taught to the school and that every child knows how to do it. There may be twenty or twenty-five pupils in one district school. Each pupil is then requested to go to his father, a relative or to some neighbor who has no children, and ask him for twelve ears of seed corn, selected according to his best judgment. In this way the farmers of the entire district are pretty well covered, each man becoming the "partner" of the child to whom he has given the ears of corn. The children then prepared their "rag babies" and keep them at home until the seed begin to sprout.

Finally a day is selected when they are brought back to school for examination and marking. It will be found that some ears are wholly dead, and others too weak to plant. After the result is determined each pupil takes his score card home to his man partner and shows him the results. He is also requested to substitute good ears for the bad ones. The pupil next does a little private testing of his own, and is then ready for the final testing, at which all of the men partners are invited to be present. The result of all this is that each farmer is put into competition with his neighbor as to his ability to select good seed corn, and the way thus paved to an increase in the size and quality of his crop.

The Crop Improvement Committee is carrying on an especially active campaign this year, urging the necessity of testing seed corn. According to Mr. Ball, repeated tests from all over the country have shown that the dampness in immature corn has caused much of it to be frozen so that it will not grow.

"No man can select corn by looking at it," said Mr. Ball. "He may be able to tell some that will not grow, but he can never be sure of that which will grow. I recently tested an ear taken from a lot that won a \$1,000 prize in Iowa last year and found that it was more than half dead at the top. One bad kernel in a hill often kills all the others, and it is a mistaken notion that you can overcome weakness by planting an additional quantity of seed."

The average ear of seed corn has about eight hundred kernels, each of which should produce a stalk bearing one ear. This would mean eight hundred ears, or about eight bushels, which at fifty cents would sell for \$4. It requires just as much labor to plant a poor ear of corn as it does to plant a good ear, and the poor ear does not give anything in return for the time and work.

When it is considered that it takes only about twelve ears of corn to plant an acre, and that every poor seed a farmer uses actually costs him between four and five bushels of corn, or in the neighborhood of \$2, it is surprising what a large percentage of seed corn is used annually without anything definite being known as to whether it is of strong germinating power.

The agricultural kindergarten plan, which has for its basis the "rag baby test," is but a part of the general scheme of work being carried on by the Crop Improvement Committee. Perhaps its most important endeavor is the establishment of a trained agriculturist in each of the counties of all the Northern States, and, in addition to a sum supplied to a number of counties by the United States Department of Farm Management, a national fund for this purpose is now being raised in order to stimulate local interest.

"In case you are ill," said Mr. Ball, "you get the best physician you know; but how many farmers are there who will send for a doctor for their sick soil, in order to develop the yield of their money crop?"

"The trouble with us all has been that we have considered farming exclusively the farmer's business, when, as a matter of fact, there is not a man, woman or child in any community who is not just as vitally interested in the larger yield of better quality as the man who actually grows it."

"What we want and must have is a country agriculturist who will go around day after day studying the intimate problems on each farm, getting acquainted with each man individually, conferring with him as to the best methods and taking his successes to the men who fail, thus gradually weeding out absolute methods and encouraging every man who already knows, but too often fails to put into practice."

"It is a business proposition, and there is not a county in the United States which would not be a million dollars richer every year by the introduction of proper methods of farm management."

## HILLO SCHOOL TEACHER

HURRIES TO COAST

Walking on crutches as a result of a shot fired by Ezra F. Nichols at Hilo last Saturday Dorsey L. Miller, a teacher of the Hilo High School, arrived in Honolulu yesterday morning on the Mauna Kea and will leave on the Honolulu for the Coast this morning.

It is alleged by Mr. Nichols that the teacher was visiting the Nichols home too frequently. The affair created a great deal of excitement in Hilo and the sympathy of the city is with Nichols.

Miller's wound is in the calf of the leg but this does not seem to delay him in his haste to leave the Islands.

## REALTY TRANSACTIONS.

Entered of Record June 28, 1912.

Antone Berba et al to Harold W. Rice.

Makaleia Ranch Co to Harold W. Rice.

Antone Berba to Harold W. Rice.

Antone Berba Jr to Harold W. Rice.

Roan McBethridge and hsb to Albin M. Hurl.

Maria G. Kahawai and hsb to Sao Martinho Bent Soey of H.

Polly Katusa and hsb to Lahnina Agricultural Co, Ltd.

C D Samson to Sam Kalmunale.

Sam Kalmunale and wf to Sylvano de Nobrega.

Clara M. R. Mossman and hsb to Randolph & Goodell.

Palolo Land & Imprmt Co, Ltd., to Mrs. Mary Schultz et al.

Chuck Hoy et al to New China Village.

W C Achi Tr to Hamauku Tract.

Kalawaianu Kawa (w) to H. Tung Kwai (k).

Est of Henry P. Baldwin, by Trs, to Gdn of George T. McLean.

Almeida-Mattos Plumbing Co to Bank of Hawaii, Ltd.

E S Cunha and wf to Harry Armistage.

Wm Pullar and wf to Charles M. Cooke, Ltd.

A Gumpfer and wf to Joao Botelho Take Kawahara and hsb to Jos P. Mendonca.

Rose K. Kekaula, by Co Sheriff, to Paul E. R. Strauch Tr.

Entered of Record June 21, 1912.

Ehu Nahimu to K. Shinohara.

T. Murata to von Hamm-Young Co, Ltd.

Augusta H. Graham and hsb to Thomas McGiffin.

Thomas McGiffin and wf to Sandwich Islands Honey Co, Ltd.

Polly Bird to W. H. Harbottle.

W. H. Harbottle to David L. Peterson.

David L. Peterson and wf to Kalamana and wf to Sandwich Islands Honey Co, Ltd.

K. Hayashi to August Dreier, Ltd.

Edwin B. Hamauku to Joseph A. Hamauku.

Joseph A. Hamauku to Edwin B. Hamauku.

Charles M. Cooke, Ltd., to Honoum Sugar Co.

A. M. Stangenwald to Wade W. Thayer.

Rudolph Windrath and wf to Mutual Bldg & Loan Socy of H.

Paul Jarrett aft.

Mrs. Kalama Paiko aft.

J. Alfred Magoon and wf to P. F. Ryan.

Entered of Record June 22, 1912.

Antone Casemiro to Mary Casemiro et al.

Manoel Sardinha and wf to Jose S. de Ramos Jr.

I. Hiroko to T. E. M. Osorio Tr.

D. T. Fleming and wf to Manoel de Coito.

D. T. Fleming and wf to M. A. Tavares.

D. T. Fleming and wf to Manoel Subrian.

C. S. Capellas et al to Francisco da Costa.

Francisco da Costa and wf to D. T. Fleming.

Antonio Franco and wf to Jose S. Bras.

John K. Kai to T. Udo et al.

Charles A. Brown, by Atty, to John K. Kai et al.

John K. Kai et al to First Bank of Hilo, Ltd.

Waka Okino and hsb to County of Hawaii.

Aoma to S. Alfred Sniffen Jr.

Mrs. Edith E. Underwood to Lewis H. Underwood.

Henry Waterhouse Trust Co, Ltd., to Kaimuki Land Co, Ltd.

Kaimuki Land Co, Ltd., to Almeida-Mattos Plumbing Co.

I. Takemori to G. Okawa.

Henry Waterhouse Trust Co, Ltd., to Honolulu Gas Co, Ltd.

John P. Mantous and wf to Take Kawahara.

Leleba to Mrs. Kahina Kahanamahi.

J. G. Jones to Pacific Sugar Mill.

Pacific Sugar Mill to J. G. Jones.

Entered of Record June 24, 1912.

George McNamara to L. K. K. K.

Pauline H. Ometed and hsb to Waima Stables, Ltd.

John H. Pascoe and wf to D. K. K.

Cecilia A. Bishop and wf to Al. H. H.

Hikakani L. Kua.

T. Uehiro to H. H. H. & Co, Ltd.

John de Mello Sr and wf to H. H. H. & Co, Ltd.

Louis de Medeiros to Hans Isenberg.

Mary K. Kahalehoe to Honokaa Sugar Co.

Kaimuki Land Co, Ltd., to Albert Parsons.

Lee Hop to Wailuku Hardware Co.

Goo Wan Hoy to Matsuta Nakashima.

Hewn Commercial & Sugar Co to William Seaby.

Harry F. Lewis to Ng. Pat.

Mary Rees and hsb to Honolulu Gas Co, Ltd.

Manoel de Jesus to Emmeline M. Magoon.

Chas. A. Stanton Tr to Frank E. Thompson.

Entered of Record June 25, 1912.

A. Grossi and wf to William Kinney.

F. J. Benny to First Bank of Hilo, Ltd.

Sam. Kaili to L. S. Ekau.

Hilo Sugar Co to Kihelani.

Kihelani Kaunooana (w) to Hilo Sugar Co.

Kihelani (w) to Hilo Sugar Co.

Gaspard Sylva, by Atty, to Edward C. Rose.

J. G. Henriques and wf to First Bank of Hilo, Ltd.

Mrs. Eliza Roy et al to Elizabeth K. White et al.

Caroline J. Robinson to Mrs. Elizabeth K. White.

Caroline J. Robinson to Mrs. Allen S. Wall.

Matilda Walker by Atty et al to Jose de F. Sequeira.

Elizabeth K. Meyer and hsb to Oahu Railway & Land Co.

Caroline J. Robinson to William F. Roy.

Mrs. Eliza Roy et al to William F. Roy.

Mrs. Kahalehoe to Ah Sing.

Geo. P. Kaulouko to Ah Sing.

Ed P. Duvauchelle and wf to L. L. McCandless.

Est of Tom May, by Tr, to J. S. Bailey.

Maria K. Humphreys and hsb to Bank of Hawaii, Ltd.

Elizabeth Rycroft to Marie K. Humphreys.

Entered of Record June 26, 1912.

Manoel Branco to Geotrudes V. Candina and hsb.

Kaehu Kanehe to S. Nakatsuji.

Mikala Kanehe and hsb to S. Nakatsuji.

Poka Kanehe and wf to S. Nakatsuji.

Joquin P. Martins to G. Inada.

Farm Corn to Rintaro Murakami.

R. Murakami and wf to Farm Corn.

Wm. Werner and wf to A. S. Wilcox.

Manuel K. Cook Tr to Ernest G. Malterre.

Edward C. Rowe and wf to Mrs. Lum Lau Shee.

James Steiner and wf to Lum Lau Shee.

Florence Mel. Lansing, by Atty, and hsb to Ferdinand Mosher.

Lewers & Cooke, Ltd., to Florence Mel. Lansing.

Ferdinand Mosher and wf to Home Insurance Co of H, Ltd.

Lakolaha K. P. Mole and hsb to H. M. Kaniho.

Mary N. Lucas, Sandwich Islands Honey Co, Ltd.

Kekoa Halana et al to Kawea's we'a (w).

E. Coit Hobron to Ernest J. Morgan and wf.

David Kamaholani and wf to F. A. Schaefer.

Est of H. P. Baldwin by Trs et al to Territory of Hawaii.

S. W. Wilcox to Ralph L. Wilcox.

W. C. Achi Tr to Manuel P. de Jesus.

Manuel P. de Jesus and wf to W. C. Achi Tr.

W. C. Achi Tr to Guardian Trust Co, Ltd.

T. Mitamura and wf to K. Anno.

K. Anno to Soye Mitamura.

W. C. Achi Tr to Mary Aheong.

L. K. Kakani and wf to Allen & Robinson, Ltd.

John P. Mantous and wf to Take Kawahara.

Leleba to Mrs. Kahina Kahanamahi.

J. G. Jones to Pacific Sugar Mill.

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Entered of Record June 24, 1912.

George McNamara to L. K. K. K.

## LAND APPORTIONED TO MANY APPLICANTS

Oahu Homesteads and Beach Lots Go Like So Many Hot Cakes.

In the midst of a mob of excited, men and women, Land Commissioner Tucker yesterday morning apportioned a big batch of Oahu homesteads among nearly 150 applicants. The names were drawn a week ago. In many instances the applicants were not present when their names were read out, and they forfeited the opportunity to select from the choicest tracts. Many sought to make complaints.

Virtually all the lots in the Kulihou and Aiea tracts were taken, though a number in the Pahoa and Lualualei tracts remain, and these may be taken by the first applicants who appear now and ask for them.

The list of the successful applicants for the lands, and the lots they will get follows:

1—William P. Young, Kulihou 43 and 43.

2—F. Meyer, Jr., Pahoa 33 and 34.

23—Rose Reeves, Kulihou 40 and 44.

4—Jose Rodriguez, Kulihou, 41 and 37.

6—Chris Holt, Kulihou, 45 and 46.

7—Emily A. Watson, Lualualei, 202 and 203.

8—H. E. Pettersen, Kulihou, 47.

10—A. K. Nawa, Kulihou, 38.

11—Wing Lee Kwai, Kulihou, 39.

12—Kapua Pake, Pahoa, 46.

16—Caroline Luka, Lualualei, 161 and 162.

23—Abigail K. Kailua, Lualualei, 204 and 205.

27—Emma McCandless, Pahoa, 19B and 20.

34—Kehemakani Landford, Pahoa, 35 and 41.

38—W. Perry, Jr., Lualualei, 181B.

41—John Mitchell, Aiea, 7 and 8.

44—David Kahuku, Pahoa, 48.

45—Alexander H. Tripp, Lualualei, 179 and 180.

53—Silvester J. Garrida, Aiea 5 and 6.

55—John Venhuizen, Aiea 26 and 27.

56—Male Loto, Lualualei 207 and 208.

57—B. Weinrich, Aiea 28 and 29.

59—Joseph Frias, Aiea 10 and 11.

65—F. C. Betters, Aiea 15 and 14.

67—Mary O'Sullivan, Aiea 18 and 19.

71—Mrs. K. Aeaupien Hinn, Lualualei, 158 A. and B.

75—Laura Makakuikalani, Aiea 23 and 24.